



Annual Report

NLR Mekong is localized as a Vietnamese NGO in 2018,
which is known as Research Center for Inclusion (RCI)

2018

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I. WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

▪ Our History

Founded in 1967, Netherlands Leprosy Relief (NLR) is a medical non-governmental and non-profit association working to support and strengthen leprosy control and rehabilitation in countries where leprosy is still a prevailing health and/or social problem. The NLR head quarter is based in Amsterdam in the Netherlands with its leprosy information center INFOLEP. NLR is active in 16 countries all over the world.

NLR programs started in Vietnam since 1981. In 2013, the NLR Representative Office in Hanoi has become the Regional NLR MEKONG office, overseeing and monitoring the NLR support to the 6 MEKONG countries: Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. To date, NLR only coordinates programs in the 3 countries including Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam.

▪ Our Vision

We envision a world free of leprosy and exclusion due to disabilities.

▪ Our Mission

NLR promotes and supports health, ability, and full inclusion in society for persons affected by leprosy or living with disabilities.

▪ Our Approach

Netherlands Leprosy Relief (NLR) has initially supported leprosy disease control projects, later shifting attention toward leprosy disability projects and more recently toward projects that comprehensively serve the needs of children and adults with disability regardless of its cause. Central to NLR's support in the Mekong region nowadays is the link between disability and poverty.

II. OUR REACH AND IMPACT IN 2018

Children reached through our programs

Country	Total number of children and youngster supported
Cambodia	2,120
Myanmar	1,219
Vietnam	371

Community members participated in our programs

Country	Total number of community members participated and benefited from our programs
Cambodia	8,740
Myanmar	200
Vietnam	260

Policy makers involve in our programs:

Country	Total number of policy makers involve in our programs
Cambodia	14
Myanmar	<i>to be updated</i>
Vietnam	58

III. KEY PROGRAMS

In 2018, Netherlands Leprosy Relief Mekong implemented numerous programs in the Mekong region, across leprosy rehabilitation, community-based rehabilitation and inclusive education. These programs enabled persons with disabilities, including children and leprosy affected persons in the region to participate equally in social activities, fulfill their legitimate rights and have opportunities to achieve their full potential. The following section will provide details of our key programs and activities:

1. INTEGRATED REHABILITATION PROJECT FOR LEPROSY AFFECTED PERSONS IN GIA LAI, KON TUM

The overall goal of the project is to improve quality of life of persons with disability including persons affected by leprosy and due to other causes in Gia Lai and Kon Tum provinces by increasing their access to social, cultural, educational and rehabilitation services.

Project activities in Gia Lai:

The activities of our project in Gia Lai province aim to improve lives of leprosy affected persons by offering healthcare skill training, installing water tanks and pipe system and providing means of livelihood (cows). Until now, leprosy still has a profound prejudice attached to it. Thus, leprosy affected persons are often isolated and have limited opportunities to attend community events. As a result, the project has organized cultural activities with singing and dancing performance to enable their participation as well as social relationship with community members. More importantly, in order to facilitate the better implementation of disability laws and policies, persons with disabilities and persons affected by leprosy were invited to a training workshop

Joint activities:

Although different activities were organized in the two provinces separately, there were 4 activities that had jointly implemented by both project management board in Kontum and Gia Lai included training on participation and inclusion of leprosy affected people in community life, training on home-based care for . These activities strengthen the partnership between the two provinces with regard to project management and implementation as well as exchanging the knowledge in the field of disability and leprosy.



Seminar on International Day of PWD



Cow delivery to PWD due to leprosy

Project activities in Kon Tum:

Through research and NLR's profound experiences in the field of disability in Vietnam, we came to realize that public services such as health, education, legal advice/counselling, employment for disabled persons, public transportation and clean water in Vietnam in general have not been so helpful to persons with disability. As such, the project conducted a survey to assess and understand levels of satisfaction of person with disabilities and their families when they have access to such services. The survey results reported that the accessibility to services provider location is limited such as: lack of ramp, toilet for person with disabilities in medical stations, schools, public car; the medical station is located far from their house. They also need more social and culture activities for persons with disabilities and their families. Besides, they appreciated the livelihood activities of self-help groups which help them to discuss, exchange and improve their incomes. The results and findings were shared to local authorities and services provider in Kontum as a way of advancing understanding about the needs of persons with disabilities in the province.

Based on the survey results, the project initiated key activities to promote integrated rehabilitation for the beneficiaries. One of the activities is the capacity building workshop for leaders of self-help groups and community base organization. In Kontum, the self-help group is a successful model which attracted the participation of 36 persons with disabilities, including the social worker. In order to expand the operation of self-help groups and improve the quality activities, self-help group leaders need to be equipped with leadership and management skills. From the workshop, participants learnt about decision-making process, budget planning and self-help group management.



A self-help groups meeting



Livelihood activity - rabbit breeding by family of people with disability related to Leprosy

As social inclusion is an important part of the project, we organized various cultural and sport activities on International Day of Persons with Disabilities. 200 persons with disabilities attended with great joy and fun. Persons with disabilities felt that they were encouraged to participate in social activities as part of the community. At the same time, this opportunity raised community awareness about disability as well as how to support person with disabilities and leave no one behind.

2. THESE SHOES ARE MADE FOR WALKING

About two million people in Southeast Asia have foot problems, which makes it difficult for them to walk. To address this problem, Netherlands Leprosy Relief (NLR) and the Liliane Foundation started the project **“These Shoes Are Made for Walking”** in May 2014

The aim is to make orthopameans accessible for people who need these for proper walking. Examples are children with spasticity, clubfeet or polio and people who are affected by leprosy, lymphatic filariasis or diabetes. The availability of special shoes could also serve as a solution for people who became crippled as a consequence of traffic accidents, conflicts and natural disasters.

From 2016, eight suitable workplace locations of graduates from the first three student groups in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam were selected to receive financial and technical support from the project to set up new orthopedic shoe workshops. High-quality workshop machines were purchased and installed in these workplaces in two phases. During the completion phase of the project, the workplaces were visited a number of times for technical input whereby, in addition to workplace design and local availability of materials, the future foot clientele on site and the foot and orthopedic shoe services that need to be supplied, were looked at.



These shoes are made for walking
Intensive refresher course March – April 2018



Casting to make the Orthopedic Shoe form



An Orthopedic Shoe making practice session

In the past four years, thirty students from various Asian countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Vietnam) have successfully completed their education; and a further seven students, among them for the first time also students from African countries, have graduated today.



1st International training program for Orthopedic Shoe Technologists
THESE SHOES ARE MADE FOR WALKING

Thanks to the project, the future for the foot problems in Southeast Asia now lies mainly with the new workshops that have started in the different national countries. Since its start in 2014, students from Southeast Asia - some of them with a disability themselves - have successfully completed the course in Hanoi. Now that they returned home, they work as orthopedic shoemaker and help children and adults with foot and walking problems on their way to a better future.

3. PROSTHESES CARE PROJECT FOR PERSONS AFFECTED BY LEPROSY IN VIETNAM

In Vietnam, most of leprosy affected people are living in leprosaria or in remote villages. Although they are now cured from leprosy, former leprosy patients still suffer secondary impairments and disabilities as consequences of leprosy. As a result, many former leprosy patients still face lots of difficulties in rehabilitation process such as difficulties in foot care, ulcer care and in walking.

For more than 20 years, the PDS funded prostheses projects address these difficulties by providing prostheses to the patients via leprosaria and prosthetic workshop. A mobile team consists of 1 RCI program officer and 2 technicians from Hoan Hao workshop is in charge of delivering the services to the leprosy affected people at the leprosaria. The project can therefore be produced locally and cost-effectively.



People with disability affected by Leprosy received Prosthetics

In 2018, Prostheses project team paid visit to 10 leprosaria in the north of Vietnam including Ba Sao, Cam Thuy, Chi Linh, Nam Din, Phu Binh, Qua Cam, Quoc Oai, Quynh Lap, Song Ma, Van Mon. Each prosthesis product is designed with careful casting and fitting to enable people with leg amputation to walk more independently and naturally. In total, in 2018, 105 leprosy affected people in 10 leprosaria received 118 prostheses and 1 orthopedic foot.

The Prostheses Outreach Project has significant impact to the lives of people affected by leprosy. The prostheses helped users to carry out a range of tasks in their daily lives according to their individual needs such as walking, cooking, etc. In so doing, the patients regain their physical integrity and thus, feel more confident and included in the community as well as society.

Figure: Total beneficiaries of Prostheses Care Project

	Female	Male	Total
Number of beneficiaries	67	151	218
Number of prostheses	76	168	244

4. SCHOOL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN FROM POOR LEPROSY AFFECTED FAMILIES

In the school year 2018-2019, 104 children who are from leprosy affected families benefited from PDS School Support Program. Without this support, these children would miss out an education as most of the families are facing poverty and adversity. These 104 children and youngster are selected from 2 leprosaria (Ben San and Di Linh Leprosaria) and 5 provinces across the country (Ca Mau, Soc Trang, Quang Ninh, Dien Bien, Tuyen Quang) where there is a high number of leprosy affected families. In total, there are 49 children at primary level, 26 children at secondary level, 13 children at high school level, 16 students at university level.

The beneficiaries of School Support Program are regularly followed-up by the Sisters in charge (in Ben San and Di Linh leprosaria) and by the person in charge of School Support Program at local level. At the same time, RCI/NLR Mekong also maintains direct contact with beneficiaries and their parents.



Vong Vinh Dau and Dad a person affected by Leprosy -received scholarship in Ben San Leprosaria



Nguyen Thanh Nha Vy and Mom - a person affected by Leprosy -received scholarship in Ben San Leprosaria

School Support Program indeed lifts up a financial burden for leprosy affected families. Most of the families' incomes depend on little salary from seasonal jobs. Before receiving the support from PDS, these children faced high risks of dropping out of school as the parents could not afford the school-related costs for their children. Now, the families can utilize school support and invest in their children's education such as buying books, registering extra-class. Furthermore, a doctor who is in charge of the Project from Ca Mau emphasized that the school support is a source of encouragement for the leprosy affected families, which makes them feel they more belong to or are a part of the community.

Coaching story

NLR remains close contact with all School Support Project's beneficiaries. In 2018, we offered a coaching session to Phan Thi Dinh – a student from Dien Bien province in to help her with the educational plan in the coming years. Phan Thi Dinh is now studying her final year in Hanoi University of Culture – Ethnic Minority Culture Faculty. Dinh is a very active student who always engage in social activities like charity and volunteer events for elderly and orphans. She has good academic performance with good study result in the previous years. Phan Thi Dinh shared that she wished to find a job at her hometown to support her community when she graduated. Based on her capacity and interests, RCI staff recommended her to pursue some vocational classes such as IT class and language class so as to create a foundation for her future career.

Figure: Total beneficiari of School Support Project

	Primary School	Secondary School	High School	College/ University	Total
Female	22	12	5	9	48
Male	27	14	8	7	56
Total	49	26	13	16	104

5. COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR) PROGRAMS IN VIETNAM

The CBR Programs in Vietnam are funded by the Liliane Foundation from the Netherlands. This year, NLR Mekong has been successful in facilitating access to community based and integrated rehabilitation services for children and adults with disability, including those affected by leprosy through supporting initiatives, capacity building, sharing information and advocacy. Its work has brought tremendous change in the lives of thousands of people.

In 2018, CBR Programs are implemented in partnership with 8 Partner Organizations including:

- (1) **MACDI** (Microfinance & Community Development Institute) - Hoa Binh province
- (2) **FGCDC** (Fund of Genetic Counseling & Disabled Children) - Hue City
- (3) **Nguyet Bieu** (Nguyet Bieu Social Protection Home of Hope) - Hue City
- (4) **QCA** (Quang Tri Charity Association) - Quang Tri province
- (5) **VNHIP** (Vietnam Health Improvement Project) - Quang Nam province
- (6) **COV** (Children of Vietnam) - Da Nang City
- (7) **MAI ANH** (Mai Anh Kindergarten for Children with Special needs) - Lam Dong province
- (8) **KON TUM** Center of Disease Control - Kon Tum province

HEALTH AND REHABILITATION

Health and rehabilitation is among the most important components of CBR matrix in ensuring the full participation and inclusion in society of children with disabilities. Thus, NLR's health programs encompass a wide range of activities including the provision of mobility devices such as walking aids, wheel chair together with various types of therapies. These programs are implemented through the management of our Partner Organizations at local levels. Based on the needs of the target groups, each POs will develop a chain of activities to create supportive environment for health, strengthen communities and develop personal skills.



Through out the year, specific activities were implemented to ensure that every beneficiaries have equal access to rehabilitation programs. This includes organizing trainings delivered to CBR workers, parents and caregivers on physiotherapy and health care for children with disabilities, home visiting, medical referral. Our programs ensured that persons with disabilities and their families know the importance of having good health and encourage them to actively participate in health promotion actions.

Good Practice: Training for Caregivers of Children with Cerebral Palsy in Hoa Binh, a mountainous region in Viet Nam

The training is one of the annual activities of the Microfinance & Community Development Institute (MACDI) and Butterfly Basket which aims at building the capacity of parents/caregivers of children with disability.

50 participants who are parents and caregivers of children with disabilities attended the one-day training with various activities from knowledge sharing on caring for children with disabilities to basic exercises to improve physical functions that help children with disability become more confident and independent in daily lives. Moreover, Q&A session attracted most attention of the participants because they had the opportunities to consult experts about their children's health and development.

Three special speakers participating in the training included Ms. Phuong Ha – Head of Club for parents who have children with disability in Ho Chi Minh city, Ms. Angelique and Ms. Silvie – Occupational therapist at Butterfly Basket from the Netherlands. The training inspired parents and caregivers to keep moving on with their life and encourage them to stand side by side with their children and support the children.

Participants shared positive feedback upon the completion of the course. Parents and caregivers remembered the contents of previous training very well and affirmed the improvement of children after practicing exercises acquired from the training. To them, these information and skills are very useful and easy to practice.



EDUCATION

Children and youngster with disabilities are often excluded from education system because of stigma, financial constraints, inaccessible infrastructure, lack of train teachers... Thus, our CBR programs aim to promote inclusive education by providing school support for children with disabilities coming from poor families; working with the school for the enrollment of children with disabilities if there is any difficulty; tutoring children at home and prepare children for the enrollment at mainstream schools. More importantly, our programs work closely with stakeholders and authorities to ensure the implementation of inclusive education policies become effective with good quality. These activities were carried out by all the 6 POs in their respective project sites in Hoa Binh, Hue, Quang Tri, Da Nang and Kon Tum.



In addition to fostering the participation of children with disabilities at mainstream schools, our programs also provide support to special school (Future School – managed by OGCDC) and special facilities (Nguyet Bieu and Mai Anh) so that even when children are not going to mainstream school, they still receive education in accordance with their capacities and interests.

Highlight: We ring the Bell campaign in 45 schools at Quang Tri province



We ring the Bell is an annual campaign initiated by Liliane Foundation to advocate for the rights to education of children with disabilities worldwide.

In 2018, Quang Tri Charity Association (QCA) successfully advocated for the implementation of We ring the Bell event in 45 schools in Quang Tri provinces. Quang Tri is one of the provinces which has high rate of persons with disabilities due to the consequences of wars in the past. Therefore, it is very important for the education systems in Quang Tri to undersand the role of education for the future of children with disabilities. As such, QCA has been working closely with the Department of Education and schools in Trieu Phong commune in order to raise awareness of disability rights, including the rights to education and how to bring it into actions.



We ring the Bell event included vairous acivities such as art performance by the students with and without disabilities, ringing the ‘recycled’ bells and reading the manifesto. The contents of We ring the Bell manifesto were disseminated to 45 schools including school staff, teachers and pupils. Moreover, local people also have access to the manifesto through the speakers of the village. In so doing, QCA did their best to ensure that the messages of We ring the Bell

LIVELIHOOD

Persons with disabilities tend to face social discrimination which often lead to exclusion in employment and deprivation of livelihood. In our project, livelihood encompass individual’s capabilities, assests and participation in productive activities which helped them meet their daily life basic needs. Thus, our activities aimed to equip young persons with disabilities with employable skills so as to improve livelihood and attain financial independence. This is planned to achieve through vocational traininings and microfinance activities for young persons with disabilities and their families.

For instance, OGCDC has strong expertises in providing vocational trainings in sewing, making hand-made products, making tofu and farming. Young persons with disabilities can attend vocational classes in the afternoon while learning regular educational curriculum in the morning. OGCDC also opens a thrift shop so that trainees can practice their acquired skills.



Some handmade products from classes of OGCDC

Highlight: Organic farm for adults with intellectual disabilities in Nam Dong mountainous district

The organic farm of OGDC was implemented in July 2016 as a first center for people with disabilities in Nam Dong mountainous district, Hue city. There are about 20 young people ages 16 to 25 years old, of whom 50% are ethnic minorities residing in the farm. Young people with disabilities have opportunities to receive professional vocational training appropriate to the needs and interests. Some farming activities include planting vegetables and raising wild boar, pork and chicken.

SOCIAL INCLUSION



2018 Mid-Autum Festival Event for CWD in Quang Tri

Young children with disabilities frequently face stigmatization and they are more prone to exclusion, abandonment with unmet developmental needs. Recognising the barriers to full inclusion that children face (such as lack of opportunities, financial difficulties, self-stigma...), our programs created various opportunities and networks to promote the participation of children with disabilities and connect them with wider groups of their peers and local people in the community. For example, our Partners often collaborate with local schools and the communes to organize cultural events such as Lunar New Year events, Mid-Autum Festival, Children's Day, Day of Persons with Disabilities. These activities often attracted 30-60 participants including children with

disabilities, family members, local people and local authorities. In so doing, we ensure that children with disability have every right to achieve a full and decent life in dignity with active participation of the community.

We also believe that family involvement is vital in promoting inclusive practices. Therefore, in all events, we always invited family members to join so that both children and families can play together and get to know each other better.

Good practice: The journey of inspiration with a teacher with disability in Hoa Binh

MACDI organised an event named 'Inspiring journey to children with disability' in Dong Lai primary school, Hoa Binh province. The event was considered a huge success with participation of 400 students, including children with disabilities, 50 adult participants (parents, media reporters, local authorities). A speaker, Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Tam who has osteogenesis imperfecta/brittle bone disease was a key actor of the event. Ms. Tam, also a teacher who deliver free-of-charge classes for CWDs for 10 years, talked about how she overcame challenges she faced in her life as a disabled person. She also shared at the event on how to take care and educate CWDs. The event, with participation of Ms. Tam aimed to inspire those who are disabled to develop an aspiration for opportunities and possibilities to advance their life. The 'inspiring journey' event was later broadcasted on local media for public awareness raising.



One of the activities in the 'inspiring journey' event in Hoa Binh

6. INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: INCREASING THE PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Inclusive education means that all groups of children can learn together in the same school where they can enjoy their rights to quality education. However, children with disabilities are often at risks of being excluded from education because of multiple barriers such as inaccessible school infrastructure, lack of trained teachers, stigma and discrimination... Recognizing the importance of education for children with disabilities, NLR has successfully proposed the Inclusive Education Project: Increasing the participation of children with disabilities in education. The 3-year project is funded by Liliane Foundation starting from 2018 to 2020.

Project goal: Ensuring children with disability in Da Nang, Quang Tri and Hoa Binh are in primary and secondary schools attaining quality inclusive education. The project's initial focus will be on primary education and in a later stage also include secondary education

Key activities include:

1. Improve capacity of teachers and school leaders and related stakeholders in the 3 project target provinces to prepare for the transition of children with disability to mainstream settings.
2. Improve multi-sectors' coordination in mobilizing resources for creating disability friendly and inclusive schools and classrooms in 3 project target provinces

3. Increase participation of children with disability (CwD) in mainstream schools in Da Nang, Quang Tri and Hoa Binh provinces in Vietnam
4. Establish relationship and coordination mechanism between special schools and mainstream schools in Da Nang, Quang Tri and Hoa Binh provinces to support inclusive education for children with disability.

Beneficiaries:

Direct beneficiaries:

- + 280 children with disability in 3 districts in 3 provinces
- + 100 school teachers and leaders in 3 project target provinces

Indirect beneficiaries:

- + 30,000 school children in mainstream primary schools and secondary schools
- + 300 teachers, school leaders and staff of primary schools, secondary schools and special schools in 3 provinces
- + 60 persons from local authorities, education departments and other related governmental departments

Project progress and key achievements:

In 2018, the project has accomplished its goals in increasing children with disabilities' access to quality education and promote a better learning environment. We work to ensure that children are enabled to go to schools where they are actively involved in school activities. A key factor to achieve the project goal is to uphold inclusive values by providing training on inclusive education to schools and teachers as they are the most important change agents for the promotion of participation and learning for all children. There was a strong focus on empowering the teachers so that they have the capacity to work with diverse student population and support student's learning progress. Additionally, a handbook on inclusive education was developed as a reliable source for teachers to find essential information and techniques that are helpful for their daily teaching.

Increasing the number of students with disabilities at mainstream schools is one of the most important mission. Therefore, in order to facilitate a smooth transition from special schools to mainstream schools and to better support teachers, the project has established the cooperation mechanism between the two setting with the aim is to provide advices and expertise based on real experiences. All the three partners in three different project sites found suitable special schools to cooperate with, which became great networking opportunities to replicate the project model.

At school level, child to child support model were highly appreciated. Students learnt to support each other in all school activities in order to strengthen the culture and practice of equality and non-discrimination school. Moreover, throughout the year, there were many social activities at schools and communities provided considerable help in raising the awareness on inclusive education such as organizing life skill classes, developing inclusive regulations and culture, hosting cultural events...

The project has steadily brought about positive outcomes for children with and without disabilities, schools and communities. The inclusive culture has been practiced by not only project beneficiaries but also local authorities and local people, which contribute to the development of inclusive society, where everyone is respected and valued.

IV. OUR REGIONAL WORK

In the Mekong region, NLR and Liliane Foundation closely collaborate in the CBR programs to support children and youngster with a disability from poor resource families. Under this program, our Partner Organizations in Cambodia and Myanmar implement activities to reduce barriers for equal participation and facilitate access to needed services. The program is coordinated by the NLR-LF regional coordination team in Hanoi who provide both technical and financial support to the partners in the 3 countries. In this section, we will highlight our key achievements accomplished by our partners in Cambodia and Myanmar.

1. CAMBODIA

At present, NLR Mekong cooperates with 5 Partner Organizations in Cambodia who are: **VIC** (Veteran International Cambodia); **DDSP** (Disability Development Service Program); **The Rabbit School** for children with intellectual disability; **MSC** (Marist Solidarity Cambodia); **CABDICO** (Capacity Building for Disability Cooperation)

RESULTS

In 2018, NLR Mekong provided funding to the 5 POs in 3 different provinces in Cambodia who working extensively in the field of disability with CBR approach. In Cambodia, there are key disability-related-challenges remain include: No access to welfare program, limited budgeting and spending for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, limited awareness about disability related conditions... Thus, the 5 POs identify community's needs, address health problems and enable CYWD's access to health services by referring them to existing health care services and programs and providing necessary interventions such as free assistive devices, home-based physiotherapy and house adaption.

The 5 POs have their own expertise and experiences as good resources for the community work. For instance, DDSP has their projects activities encompass 5 components of CBR with the outstanding Day care model and integrated class while MSC provide comprehensive education programs for young persons with physical disabilities. VIC and CABDICO work directly with the community for numerous disability awareness workshops and personalized intervention plans for children and youngster with disabilities. Remarkably, Rabbit School is the only organization in Cambodia that provide inclusive education for children with intellectual disability. These interventions have great influences on the improvement of children's health and mobility, increase their participation and opportunities for social inclusion.

STORY FROM THE FIELDS: The joy of working with children with special needs

Ms. Sok Kimsour is a teacher of an integrated class in Bong Kna primary school. She has been teaching in Bong Kna for 7 years. She shared that teaching CWDs is sometimes tiring but seeing CWDs can learn and can become independent day by day, her motivation to teach CWDs becomes stronger. In Ms. Sok Kimsour' class, CWDs are very active in all sessions that are customized based on their abilities. Ms. Sok inspires a sense of joy for her students by organizing various activities such as singing, dancing, learning through games. In so doing, the children feel comfortable in class and have more motivation to maintain their attendance at the class. Ms. Sok emphasized that maintaining patience is very important in teaching children with disabilities because their progress may be very slow and close follow-up with particular support and attention to each student is required.



2. MYANMAR

RESULTS

In Myanmar, the two POs: TLMM and ECDC are working with local governments and local partners to enable CYWD to access to basic health care services and education in their communities.

TLMM and ECDC continue to reach out to children and people with disabilities in rural and remote areas. As stigma to a child or family member with a disability remains strong in Myanmar, our POs invited parents/caregivers to attend various training workshop sessions on disability related issues to raise awareness about inclusion for persons with disabilities. Moreover, the project health workers linked and integrated the government Health Promotion Program into the activities, which targeted to strengthen understanding of communities on disability. Furthermore, TLMM worked with schools to enable their trained volunteers to demonstrate physiotherapy sessions and behavior changes within schools to mitigate social stigma on disabilities.

For ECDC in particular, a part from provision of training for caregiver of CWDs, this PO also organized a wide range of classes for CWDs including language class, mathematic class, art class, etc. Besides, there are other training options for youngster with disabilities who are interested in making handmade products such as shopping basket, handicraft.

STORY FROM THE FIELDS: Happiness is to making flower garland with mom



Htet Aung Zeya is a girl with Down Syndrome. She is one of the beneficiaries of ECDC for more than 7 years. She lives with her mother in a small and modest house. Her mother has no stable job. Their monthly income depends on a vegetable shop that the mother opens near her house everyday.

Despite the extreme adversity, she demonstrated to be a positive persons and a fast learner. In the beginning she was a bit slow and shy. But by going to ECDC everyday, Htet gradually learns to do self-care and becomes more confident in her daily life. Htet likes to make flow garland and she also earns money from selling the flower garlands. Her journey is an evidence of how patience, care and meaningful support can transform life of children with disabilities where they can thrive and live.

V. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

As a Strategic Partner Organizations of Liliane Foundation, NLR Mekong facilitates various capacity development opporutnities for our Partners in the region. In 2018, NLR Mekong organized 3 training workshop for our Parnters Organizations in Vietnam and in Myanmar. The aims of these workshops were to share best practices, knowledge and advance the applications of CBR approach in our work toward the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society. Following are the key capacity development event organized in 2018:

1. Training on Policy Advocacy and Fundraising for Partners Organizations in Danang, Vietnam

Based on the need assessment results which were shared to all NLR Mekong's Partner Organizations, we learnt that our POs were interested in learning about fundraising and policy advocacy. As a result, NLR Mekong organized a 3-days-training in Da Nang city to equip POs with solid foundation in writing a winning proposal and in developing policy advocacy strategies for 15 participants.



Participants of the training were very excited with the course as they learnt how to improve the writing process as well as how to make the proposal convincing and attractive. Specifically, with proposal writing session, participants were introduced and practiced on context analysis (using a tool of PESTLE – political, economic, social, technology, legal and environment), theory of change, log frame, indicator formulation, risk management and stakeholder analysis. During the training, participants had opportunities to consult with the trainers about their current proposals.

With advocacy session, training provided key contents included identifying issues of advocacy, analyzing stakeholders/policy makers, and developing advocacy messages which need to consist of ‘statement, evidence, example, and action’. Many participants shared it was their first time to learn about these knowledge, which was very helpful to apply in project implementation.



2. Workshop training on Disability related Legislations for Persons with Disabilities in Hanoi, Vietnam

On 2 days 11 & 12 October 2018, NLR Mekong organised a Workshop training on Disability Policy, Programs and Legislation for persons with disabilities in Vietnam in the form of contest and discussion. Participants of the workshop were persons with disabilities/beneficiaries in the project sites of NLR Mekong's partner organisations in Hoa Binh, Quang Tri, Hue, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Kon Tum and Gia Lai.



The workshop were facilitated by 02 deaf persons: Mr. Nguyen Tuan Linh from Advocacy Committee for Vietnamese Deaf Association and Mr. Pham Anh Duy, sign language teacher. Through the workshop, participants had access to the most updated information on policies and legislation supporting persons with disabilities in Viet Nam. Participants also had opportunities to

dicuss about the policy implementations in different provinces and cities. To some people, that was the very first time for them to attend such a workshop with lots of information about policies for people with disabilities. Additionally, the succesful facilitation of the trainers (people with hearing impairment) was a really good source of inspiration for people with disabilities as they demonstrate positive attitude and effort toward life in general and in supporting community in particular. Ultimately, the workshop focused on empowering persons with disability by increasing their understanding on existing policies and how to voice their conce|rns with local authorities who were present in the workshop. As part of the workshop, all participants were required to develop the plans to advocate for their benefits once they were equipped such knowledge from the workshop.



3. Regional Workshop on Best Practice in CBR – Inclusive Education and Home Based Care in Yangon, Myanmar

In November, 2018, NLR Mekong organized a regional workshop about Best Practice in CBR – Inclusive Education and Home Based Care in Yangon, Myanmar with the 28 representatives of all Partner Organizations from Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The workshop themes were chosen according to NLR Mekong’s consultation with the POs and also based on the interventions of majority of the POs, which was facilitated by Mr David Curtis and Mr Kheng Virak from Light for the World Netherlands. The workshop aimed to enhance the POs’ capacity on CBR



about health and education; to strengthen NLR Mekong’s POs network (for two days); and to get all POs informed of LF phasing out plan (for half-day session).

The workshop was followed by an expose visit to TLMM’s Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Yangon where all participants met with the staff and volunteers to learn about CBR practice in Myanmar.

A final session of the workshop was an internal discussion among all POs and NLR Mekong about LF phasing out plan and updates on the SPO localization. The two POs – VIC and Rabbit School were invited to share their experience and success in raising fund. In addition to this, all POs had opportunities to learn and exchange their experience as well as culture of different countries.



The workshop enabled all partners to reflect on their experiences, challenges as well as strength and to look forward to the shared strategy in the coming years of partnership with NLR Mekong.

VI. PLANS FOR 2019

1. TRANSITION TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL ORGANIZATION

NLR MEKONG prepared for phasing out structural financial support for all leprosy control activities in all Mekong countries since 2017 and supported these partners in the transition while promoting local ownership. NLR Mekong also accomplished the localization progress, following the decision of NLR Head Quarter to stop its funding for the Mekong.

2. A LOOK AHEAD

2019 will be a key milestone for NLR Mekong and Research Center for Inclusion. As a result of the localization, Research Center for Inclusion (RCI) will continue NLR MEKONG's profound experiences in supporting people with disability and persons affected by leprosy established over 35 years throughout Vietnam. RCI is legally registered in 2018 with the Vietnamese Ministry of Science and Technology in Vietnam. RCI is under the coordination and management of the government focal point of Southeast Asian Research Association of Vietnam (SEARAV).

RCI aims to develop the new strategy for the next 5 years period with focus on the five key themes comprising:

- Health & Community Base Rehabilitation (CBR)
- Inclusive Education
- Social Inclusion
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Research

RCI will entirely replace NLR by August 2020.

VII. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Netherlands Leprosy Relief – Vietnam Representative Office

Statement of income and expenditure

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2018 VND	Year ended 31 December 2017 VND
Income			
Contributions from Netherlands Leprosy Relief	3	5,160,960,000	8,768,818,000
Contributions from Peerke Donders Stichting	4	561,057,000	891,482,820
Contributions from Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation	5	746,154,073	940,004,317
Contributions from Liliane Foundation	6	4,457,611,692	3,273,007,662
Instalment from Butterfly Foundation		35,153,099	-
Other income	7	189,000,000	147,285,775
Interest income		(1,439,619)	5,855,326
Foreign exchange (loss)/gain		(46,016,799)	135,297,230
		11,102,479,446	14,161,751,130
Expenditure			
Expenditures of the NLR Office (including Office, Control and National Rehabilitation activities)	8	(3,238,625,404)	(2,406,838,404)
Expenditures funded by Peerke Donders Stichting	9	(913,108,435)	(840,751,254)
Expenditure of Rehabilitation Kon Tum (funded by Sasakawa)	10	(239,932,115)	-
Expenditures of Rehabilitation in Gia Lai Project (funded by Sasakawa and co-funded by NLR)	10	(430,756,685)	(1,226,748,992)
Expenditures of Disability, Poverty and Education Project (Funded by Eureko Achmea Foundation)		-	(371,869,134)
Expenditures of activities as Strategic Partnership with Liliane Foundation	11,12	(3,324,939,835)	(2,723,204,714)
Expenditures of Inclusive Education 1 year project financed by Liliane Foundation	11,13	(426,289,000)	-
Expenditures of Inclusive Education 3 year project financed by Liliane Foundation	11,14	(1,306,585,856)	-
Expenditures of "These shoes are made for walking" Project		(2,361,841,949)	(4,457,240,431)
		(12,242,079,279)	(12,026,652,929)
(Deficit)/ Surplus of income over expenditure		(1,139,599,833)	2,135,098,201



Jan Robijn
NLR Representative

Nguyen Thi Thanh Hang
Financial Manager

The notes set out from 7 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements

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VIII. OUR PARTNERS, DONORS AND NETWORKS

We value all of our partners, both public and private, including donors, foundations and individual supporters. Your generosity powers our work for persons and children with disabilities. Together, we are making positive changes for the inclusive world that we are longing for.

